Cedre NEWSLETTER
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Emergency response

Cedre's duty team continued to provide technical support to Lubrizol (advice and recommendations on-site then remotely) as well as to the company responsible for the ferric chloride spill in Lavéra (see Newsletter 292). A company contacted us in relation to a bitumen leak in a stormwater pond. We were also called upon to provide information following an oil spill in the Nièvre river. Cedre was questioned by the Maritime Prefecture for the Mediterranean in relation to pollution initially observed by satellite, confirmed by aerial observations and finally by the *Abeille Flandre* sent on-site. We advised the Dunkirk *gendarmerie* on sampling and analysis procedures after numerous bottles potentially containing mineral oil washed up on a beach in Bray-Dunes. In terms of exercises, Cedre took part in the RAMOGEPOL exercise organised by the Maritime Prefecture for the Mediterranean on the 17th, providing technical advice remotely and an engineer from Cedre joined the incident management centre's expert unit. We also provided advice to the Italian Government as part of the Mediterranean Assitance Unit activated for this event by REMPEC. In addition, we supplied the French "State Action at Sea" division of the French Antilles maritime zone command with all the information Cedre would have provided in the event of a real incident, as part of a tabletop exercise on the 18th. We were contacted by Latvia for a MAR-ICE exercise based on a scenario involving a container ship. We were contacted, as is routine practice, by fire-fighters training at ENSOSP who were studying lightering options for a barge on fire on the river Seine. Finally, we provided remote assistance to several French experts dispatched to Lebanon following the ammonium nitrate blast in Beirut, drawing upon ties with CASU (INERIS emergency response unit) for one particular point.

In short

Dates for the diary

►9th to 11th October: Ocean Hackathon 2020® featuring two challenges by Cedre

►12th to 16th October: 12th edition of the Sea Tech Week®

►27th November: Cedre's 52nd Strategy Committee meeting, Brest

Training

►12th to 16th October: training course on oil spill response at sea and on the shoreline, at Cedre

►14th and 15th October: POLMAR 29 training and exercise

►20th to 22nd October: training course on chemical spill response principles at sea, at Cedre

►26th to 30th October: training course on oil spill response at sea and on the shoreline, at Cedre

►3rd to 5th November: training course on merchant ships and the role of shipping industry stakeholders in maritime incidents, at Cedre

Hot off the press

►New publication: Pollustats 2019. Worldwide spill statistics. See also Pollustats 2017 and 2018

32nd meeting of contracting parties to the Bonn Agreement

On 23rd and 24th September, Cedre, providing support to SGMer, attended the 32nd meeting of contracting parties to the Bonn Agreement, initially scheduled to be held in Ireland but ultimately held online. Cedre gave a review of the progress of the West MOPoCo project and a very brief overview of the *MV Wakashio* incident. Our Norwegian colleagues gave a very interesting presentation of the incident involving the *Trans Carrier*, which lost a cargo of plastic pellets at sea in February, polluting the coastline and certain islands are difficult to access. Like for oil, the issue of identifying appropriate response techniques was raised as well as the question "How clean is clean"?

RAMOGEPOL 2020 exercise

An engineer from Cedre took part in the RAMOGEPOL 2020 exercise organised through the Ramoge Agreement by the Italian party with the participation of the incident management centres in Monaco and Italy. The French version of the exercise was held on 17th September, organised by the Maritime Prefecture for the Mediterranean as a crisis management exercise.

On-site training courses back up and running

Since 31st August, Cedre is delighted to have been able to host several groups of trainees at its facilities. Thanks to the implementation of a solid COVID-19 health and safety protocol, four training sessions have been organised at Cedre. From 31st August to 3rd September, 9 German trainees from the Central Command for Maritime Emergencies (Havariekommando) attended a spill response course, for the third year running. This course comprised exercises in inland waters, on the Penfeld river, containment and recovery operations at our outdoor test tanks and shoreline clean-up workshops. Next year's session has already been scheduled! Then, from 11th to 15th September, we received 14 participants for our training course on spill response in inland waters, followed by 21 participants on this year's first session on spill response at sea and on the shoreline from 14th to 18th September. Finally, from 28th September to 1st October, we organised this year's second and final session on marine pollution crisis management for 19 participants. The first session of this course was run online in June via our online training platform.

Response preparedness assignment for Haropa-Ports de Paris and VNF

From 21st to 25th September, two engineers from Cedre were in Paris as part of a contingency planning assignment for Haropa-Ports de Paris and VNF. This 5-day mission was the opportunity to hold discussions with stakeholders (VNF, BFPP, BSPP...) involved in spill response in the Suresnes stretch of the Seine river and to visit several multi-modal platforms. Following the study that is currently being carried out by Cedre, recommendations on the spill response organisation and emergency procedures will be issued.

CleanAtlantic project steering committee meeting

On 8th September, Cedre attended an online presentation of the progress of the European project CleanAtlantic during a meeting organised with the project's steering committee. This committee comprises representatives of the environment ministries of the five project countries (Ireland, United Kingdom, France, Spain and Portugal), the OSPAR Commission Secretariat as well as Kimo International. This meeting was the opportunity for the consortium to present its initial results and to discuss the dissemination of the results through OSPAR's work and national and international public policies, in particular the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, with the steering committee.

Used Cooking Oil (UCO) weathering assessment

As part of Cedre's work on the behaviour of different substances spilt on water, in September we studied Used Cooking Oil. This substance (like palm oil or animal fat) is used in refineries to produce Hydrogenated Vegetable Oil (HVO) for the manufacture of biofuels. A weathering trial was conducted in the Polludrome® over an 8-day period. A volume of 20 litres of UCO heated to 45°C (the temperature at which it is transported) was released and the product's physical and chemical properties were monitored via regularly taken samples. Visually, the product showed very different behaviour from petroleum oil: the UCO initially congealed due to the cooling effect upon its release then tended to gradually liquefy without emulsifying. The conclusions of this study will lay the groundwork for recommendations to define the most appropriate response strategies.

"Oil sniffer" tests

At the end of September, Cedre organised the testing of a detection system for oil buried in sediment. This test, carried out on Cedre's man-made beach, involved a researcher from the University of Rennes, two people from RETIA and a consultant from Merl Consulting. The aim of this test was to assess the detector's capacities on different types of oil (refined, crude, weathered, heavy fuel oil) buried at a depth of up to 70 cm (maximum sediment depth on the man-made beach). The system, a Proton Transfer Reaction Mass Spectrometer (PTRMS), detects and identifies VOCs (Volatile Organic Compounds) emitted by the oil. The trials proved highly conclusive: the equipment's sensitivity allowed it to detect even the heaviest oils (therefore with a lower concentration of VOCs) while its selectivity makes it possible to eliminate potentially large amounts of background noise according to the area investigated. The subsequent phase of these trials should involve an assessment of the miniaturisation possibilities for this equipment to make it more readily transportable and portable.

IPoMaC project: offshore sensor trials

Within the framework of the IPoMaC project on emergency response to marine chemical spills supported by Ceppol which aims to assess the potential of sensors for detecting chemical pollution at the water surface, Cedre took part in an offshore trial onboard the assistance vessel *Sapeur* on 8th and 9th September. The purpose of this trial was to prepare a larger offshore campaign to be conducted in 2021 and which could involve other French State operators involved in spill response such as French Customs.

1st riverine litter monitoring site opens

From 29th September to 2nd October, Cedre was in Boulogne-sur-mer to deploy the French national monitoring network for litter from drainage basins (RNS-MD-BH). On the banks of the Liana, upstream of the estuary, the first monitoring site was opened in collaboration with the association Nature Libre. During this first survey, 292 litter items were collected, mainly consisting of bottles, cigarette butts, fragments of expanded polystyrene and food wrappers. This data will be used to characterise the input of litter from waterways into the sea.

Cedre in the field for national beach litter monitoring

As coordinator of the French beach litter monitoring network (RNS-MD-L), Cedre visited the monitoring sites in Hauts-de-France to meet the local operators in charge of monitoring. Cedre met with PNM EPMO (Parc Naturel Marin des Estuaires Picards et de la Mer d'Opale), CPIE Flandre maritime and the associations Adele and Nature Libre, as well as taking part in the last 2020 annual litter survey on certain sites. Cedre also explored the shoreline within the PNM EPMO nature park area with a view to identifying new monitoring sites and took samples at certain hotspots. This opportunity was also taken to train PNM EPMO in the microplastics monitoring protocol adopted by the French national monitoring network for microplastics in beach sediment (RNS-mP-P) and to take several samples of sand to contribute to the assessment of microplastic pollution on the French coastline.